



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 27, 2005

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R.I. CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL PROMOTION AND EDUCATION RECEIVES \$54,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to the Rhode Island Center for Agricultural Promotion and Education. The \$54,000 grant will provide technical assistance to Rhode Island farmers, shell fishermen, and related business operators to assess, build, market, and promote successful agri-tourism and direct marketing enterprises.

“Like eco- and historic tourism, agri-tourism makes the connection among tourism, which is Rhode Island’s second largest industry, and the natural, historic, and local amenities, values, and products of our State. It is also an important contributor to the viability of many local farm operations,” Senator Chafee explained. “These funds will help farmers to make agri-tourism related improvements like advertising and promotion.”

This project is an adjunct to an existing and already funded USDA project, the Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education Program. The grant facilitates the development and dissemination of a print and online directory of farms, agricultural, and historical sites. It also provides participating agri/aqua-culture based businesses with farm site assessments, market planning, and a companion marketing resource manual.

Senator Chafee has requested additional funding to continue this project as part of the fiscal year 2006 appropriations process.

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